

THE STANDARD

Internal & External Structures

"Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction."



LS1.A • Structure and Function

"Plants and animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction."

Every body part has a job. A structure is a part. A function is what that part does. Roots hold a plant in place and soak up water. A heart pumps blood. Thorns keep a hungry animal from taking a bite. **4th graders connect a part to its job, and to how that job helps the living thing stay alive.**



Engaging in Argument from Evidence

"Construct an argument with evidence, data, and/or a model."

4th graders don't just say a part has a job. They back it up. They make a claim like "roots help the plant get water," then point to evidence: the plant with cut roots wilted, the one with roots stayed strong. **The argument is the claim plus the proof, in their own words.**



Systems and System Models

"A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions."

A plant or animal is a system, and the parts are its components. Here's the idea 4th graders carry out the door: the parts work together. Roots grab water, the stem carries it up, the leaves use it. No single part does it alone. **They see a living thing as a team of parts, each helping the whole survive.**